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TOHAK 41

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: NOON NOTES

NSA review completed

SITUATION IN INDOCHINA: CURRENT INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT ENEMY FORCES NEAR QUANG TRI CITY WILL CONTINUE THEIR STRONG RESISTANCE AGAINST GOVERNMENT UNITS ADVANCING TOWARD FORDING SITES ACROSS THE THACH HAN RIVER ALONG THE MAJOR APPROACH NORTH TO DONG HA.

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NVA UNITS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO COUNTER ARVN ACTIVITIES SOUTH-WEST OF THE CITY, WHERE THE 95TH REGIMENT, 325TH NVA DIVISION HAS APPARENTLY REPLACED ELEMENTS OF THE 312TH NVA DIVISION. PRISONERS FROM THE 209TH REGIMENT OF THE 312TH HAVE DISCLOSED THAT THEIR UNIT RECENTLY ASSUMED NEW POSITIONS FARTHER WEST ALONG THE THACH HAN. THE 9TH REGIMENT, 304TH NVA DIVISION IS AS ALSO BEING IN THIS AREA. THIS REGIMENT, ALONG WITH THE 95TH REGIMENT, 325TH NVA DIVISION, ARE PRESSURING GOVERNMENT FORCES TO PERMIT 312TH DIVISION ELEMENTS TO PREPARE POSITIONS NORTH OF THE RIVER.

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TRATED ENEMY GROUND PROBES, COMMANDERS OF TWO IRREGULAR GROUPS IN THE SARAVANE AREA IN LAOS HAVE REPORTED THAT THE SITUATION APPEARS TO BE STABILIZING. ONE GROUP COMMANDER REPORTED LOSSES OF 30 KILLED, 36 WOUNDED, AND 31 MISSING. THE OTHER COMMANDER HAS BEEN UNABLE TO COMPILE CASUALTY FIGURES FOR HIS GROUP.

PARTIES REACT TO NEW DECREE: CIA REPORTS THAT POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS ARE CONTINUING TO RESPOND TO PRESIDENT THIEU'S DECREE ON POLITICAL PARTIES. HA THUC KY, WHO HEADS THE REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIET (RDV) PARTY, TOLD U.S. EMBASSY OFFICERS LAST WEEKEND THAT HE HAD PETITIONED THE SUPREME COURT TO DECLARE THE DECREE UNCONSTITUTIONAL. KY ASSERTS THAT THE EMERGENCY POWERS LAW AUTHORIZED PRESIDENT THIEU TO DECREE LEGISLATION ONLY IN THE FIELDS OF SECURITY, DEFENSE, FINANCE, AND THE ECONOMY AND THAT THE MEASURE ON POLITICAL PARTIES DOES NOT FIT UNDER ANY OF THESE CATEGORIES. KY CHARGES THAT THIEU IS TRYING TO ELIMINATE ALL PARTIES AND SET UP A DICTATORSHIP, ADDING THAT THE RDV HAS NO INTENTION OF TRYING TO MEET THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW LAW OR OF MERGING WITH ANY OTHER PARTY. HOWEVER, ANOTHER INDEPENDENT GROUP, THE LABOR UNION-BASED FARMER WORKER PARTY, APPARENTLY HOPES TO BE ABLE TO MEET THE PROVISIONS AND UNDERSTANDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL ASSIST IT IN MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DECREE.

COLD WAVE IN PARIS: PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE ATMOSPHERE OF PUBLIC COLDNESS CONTINUES IN THE PARIS TALKS. OBSERVERS NOTED THE FAILURE OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION TO GREET OR BID FAREWELL TO LE DUC THO AND XUAN THUY AT TODAY'S MEETING.

WHITLAM STATEMENT ON BOYCOTT AND BOMBING: FOLLOWING THE END OF THE AUSTRALIAN BOYCOTT ON U.S. SHIPPING, PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM DISCLOSED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN IN FAVOR OF IT. THE PRESS REPORTS THIS AS HIS FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE BAN SINCE IT WENT INTO EFFECT 12 DAYS AGO. WHITLAM SAID HE DID NOT THINK SUCH ACTION HELPED IN ANY WAY, BECAUSE IT DISTRACTED ATTENTION FROM THE BOMBING ITSELF, THE IMPORTANT ISSUE. HE ALSO LASHED OUT AT THE STATEMENTS BY THREE OF HIS MINISTERS CONDEMNING THE U.S. ACTION, SAYING THAT THESE PRONOUNCEMENTS HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED BY HIM. IN THE FUTURE, ONLY HE WOULD MAKE STATEMENTS ON FOREIGN POLICY; AND IF THE U.S. RESUMED THE BOMBING, HE WOULD NOT LIMIT HIMSELF TO A PRIVATE PROTEST LETTER BUT WOULD MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT.

SOVIET MINESWEEPERS FOR SYRIA: DIA THINKS THAT TWO VANYA-CLASS COASTAL MINESWEEPERS THAT ENTERED THE MEDITERRANEAN UNDER TOW ON JANUARY 6 WILL MOST LIKELY BE DELIVERED TO SYRIA. IF SO, IT WOULD MARK THE FIRST TURNOVER OF THIS CLASS MINESWEEPER TO A NON-COMMUNIST NATION.

THE EVENING STAR AND WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS: ACCORDING TO HENRY BRADSHAW, WITH BOTH SAIGON AND HANOI SAYING THAT OBSTACLES STILL PREVENT PEACE IN VIETNAM, THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WANTS THE U.S. TO BOMB HANOI SOME MORE IN HOPES OF MAKING THE COMMUNISTS CONCEDE ACCEPTABLE TERMS. HANOI IS PREPARING FOR SUCH A POSSIBILITY.

**A WEST GERMAN COURT HAS ATTACHED 3,000 TONS OF CHILEAN COPPER
AT THE REQUEST OF THE KENNECOTT COPPER CORPORATION.**

**WELL-PLACED ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAY THE U.S. AND THE USSR
HAVE MADE LITTLE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE LATEST ROUND OF
TALKS ON LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC ARMS. AN OFFICIAL SAID HE
DOUBTED ANY BREAKTHROUGH WOULD OCCUR UNTIL PRESIDENT NIXON'S
MEETING WITH BREZHNEV LATER THIS YEAR.**

**A STAR EDITORIAL STATES THAT THE UNPLEASANT TREND OF OUR RELA-
TIONS WITH AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN WORSENERD FOOLISHLY BY THE OFFICIAL
ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN BY THE WHITLAM GOVERNMENT TO UNOFFICIAL ANTI-
AMERICAN ACTION IN AUSTRALIAN PORTS. THE PROMOTION OF POPULAR
ANIMOSITIES COULD MAKE THE CONTINUANCE OF THE ANZUS DEFENSE
ARRANGEMENT MORE DIFFICULT.**

**ORR KELLY SUGGESTS THAT THE INTENSIVE BOMBING CAMPAIGN AGAINST
NORTH VIETNAM MAY BE SEEN BY FUTURE LEADERS AS PROOF THAT BOMB-
ING CAN ACHIEVE MAXIMUM RESULTS AT MINIMUM COST. IN COLD, PURELY
MILITARY TERMS THE BOMBING CAMPAIGN WAS QUITE INEXPENSIVE IN
MEN AND MATERIEL, SINCE THERE WERE FAR FEWER AMERICAN LOSSES
THAN EXPECTED. PROPERTY DAMAGE TO NORTH VIETNAM WAS GREAT, BUT
FAR FEWER LIVES WERE LOST THIS TIME THAN WERE LOST IN SATURATION
BOMBING IN WORLD WAR II. WHILE BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THIS
COUNTRY HAVE SUFFERED SEVERE LOSS OF PRESTIGE AND RESPECT,
THE BOMBING MAY AT SOME POINT BE CONSIDERED A CHEAP WAY OF
APPLYING HEAVY MILITARY PRESSURE.**

CROSBY No Objection to Declassification in Part 2013/10/18 : LOC-HAK-547-3-26-3

NEGOTIATIONS IS OVER, A FULL-FLEDGED CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION AND THE SAIGON REGIME IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY. IT IS APPARENT THAT THE AMERICAN ROLE IN THE VIETNAM WAR IS ENDING, AND IF WE GET OUR PRISONERS BACK IN EXCHANGE FOR A CESSATION OF AIR AND SEA ATTACKS, SAIGON WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO VETO THE ARRANGEMENT. YET, IT WILL RESIST ANY ARRANGEMENT WHICH COMPROMISES SOUTH VIETNAM'S CHANCE TO SURVIVAL.

MARY MCGRORY FIRES OFF A FEW SALVOS IN THE DIRECTION OF SECRETARY LAIRD. SHE DESCRIBES HIS FAREWELL MEETING WITH THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE.

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